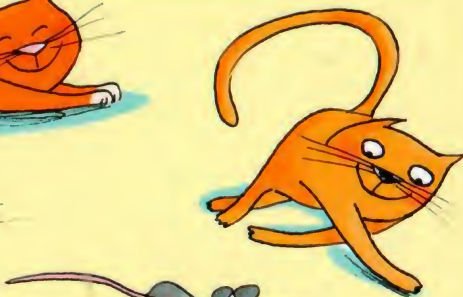


First Phonics Words



cat on a mat



a cat and a rat



cat in a hat



- **Help your child to read the big words** at the top of the page, and then try the smaller words in the labels.
- **Read the questions** at the bottom of the pages to your child, and talk about the answers together.
- You'll find further guidance at the end of the book.

Further help and support for parents and teachers can be found on the Very First Reading website,
www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading

Usborne Very First Reading has been developed in consultation with literacy specialists Alison Kelly and Anne Washtell of Roehampton University, London.

cat

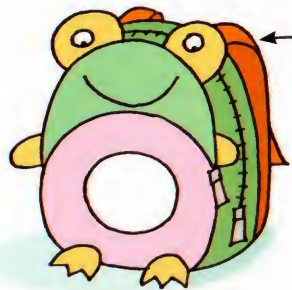


How many cats with spots can you see?



Do you think the rat will get away?

bag



fun bag



big bag



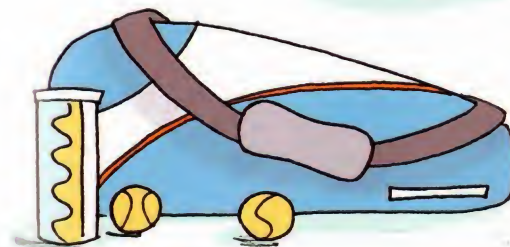
Can you say what all these bags are used for?



red bag



cat in a bag



Do you have any bags like these?

dog

bad
dog

wet dog

sad dog

hot dog

Why do you think the dog at the top is sad?

Can you think of names for all the dogs?

rat

rat in a hat

wet rat

bad rat

rat in a can

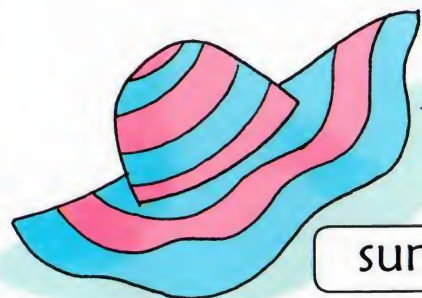
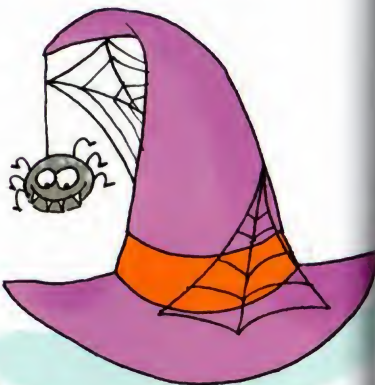
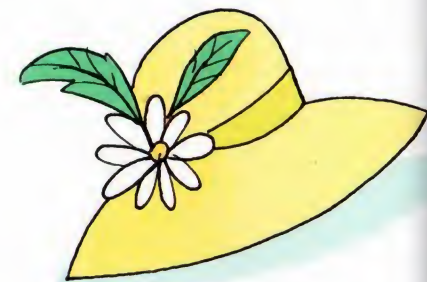
Do you think the wet rat likes swimming?

Why is the little rat looking upset?

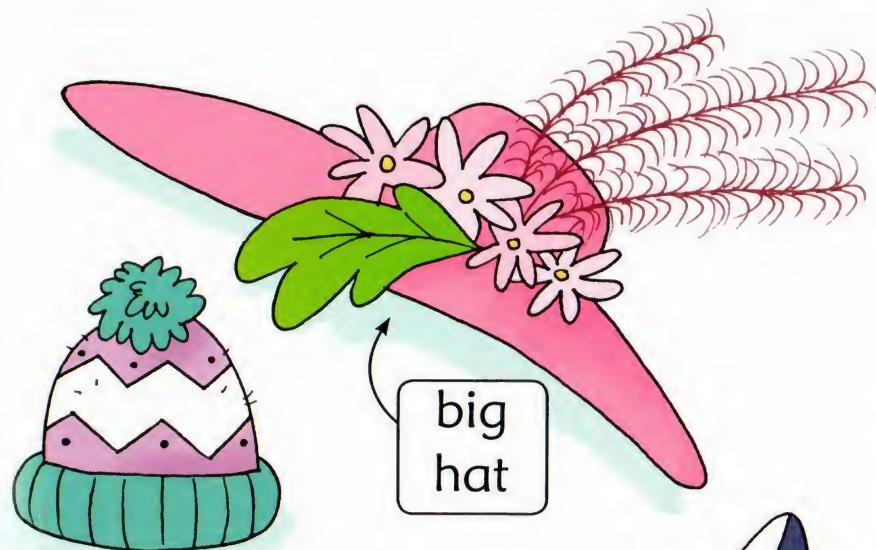
hat



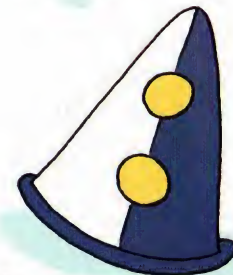
top hat



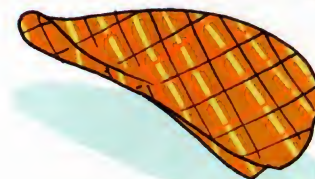
sun hat



big hat



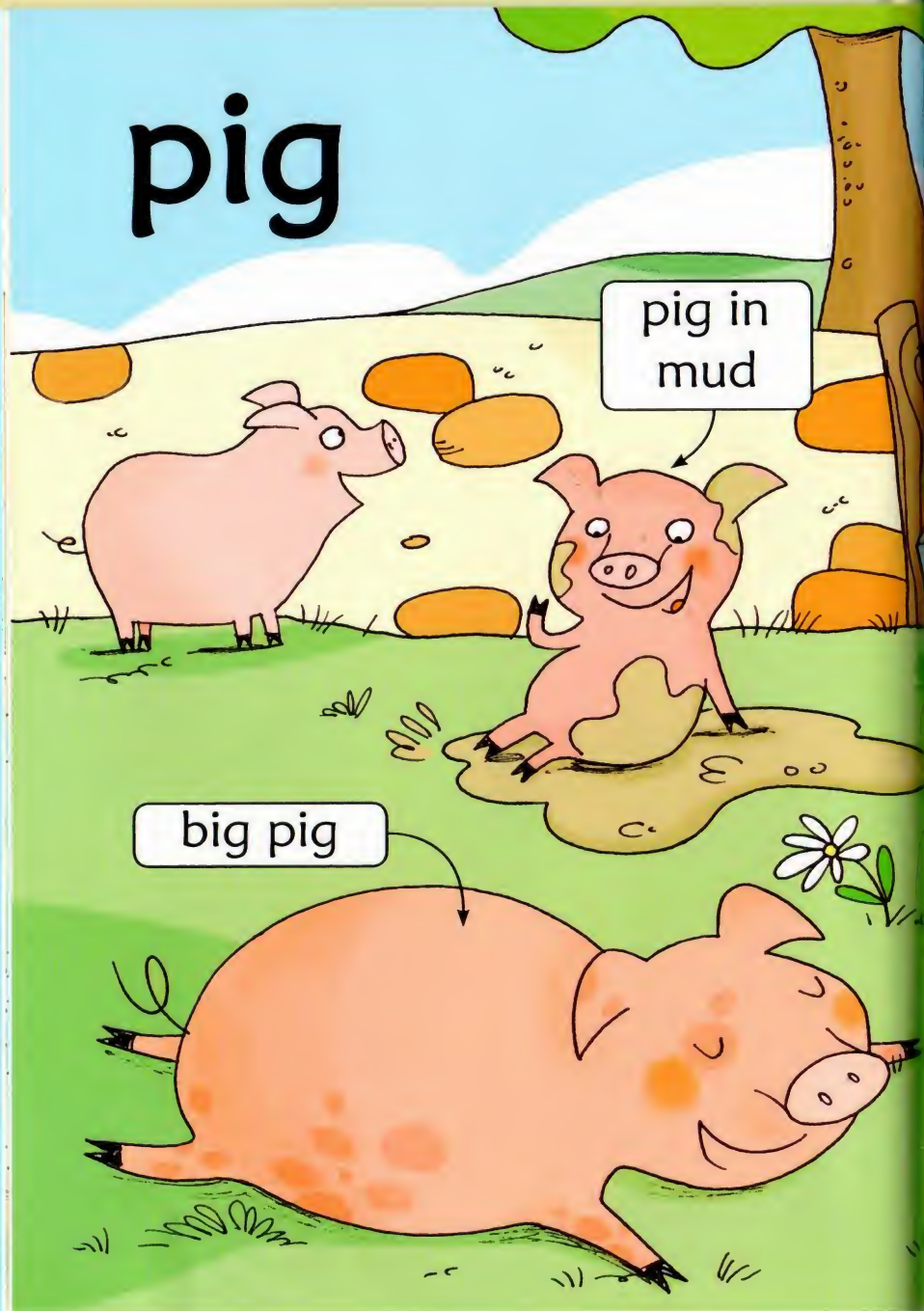
cat on a hat



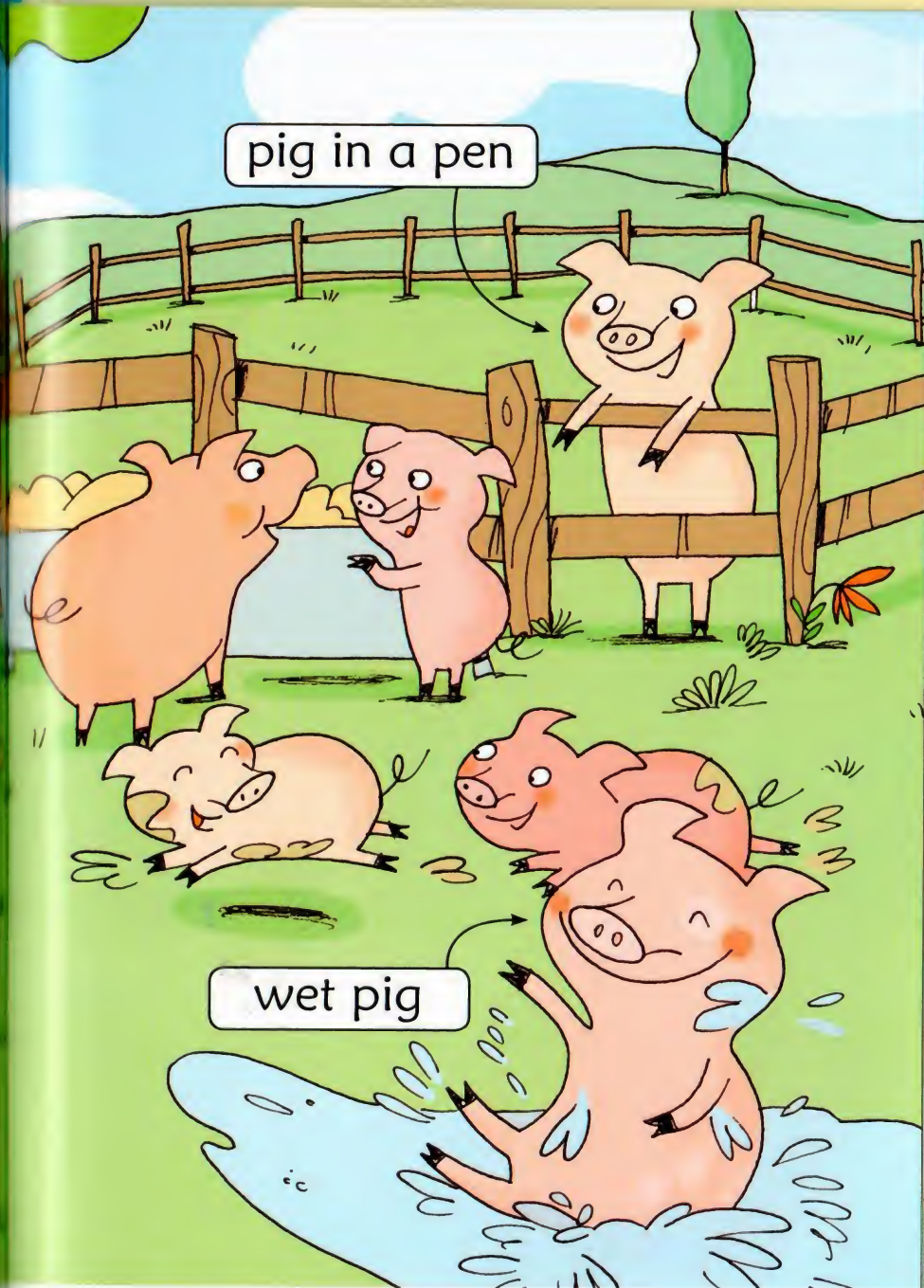
Can you see a warm hat to wear in winter?

Which hats would be good for a party?

pig

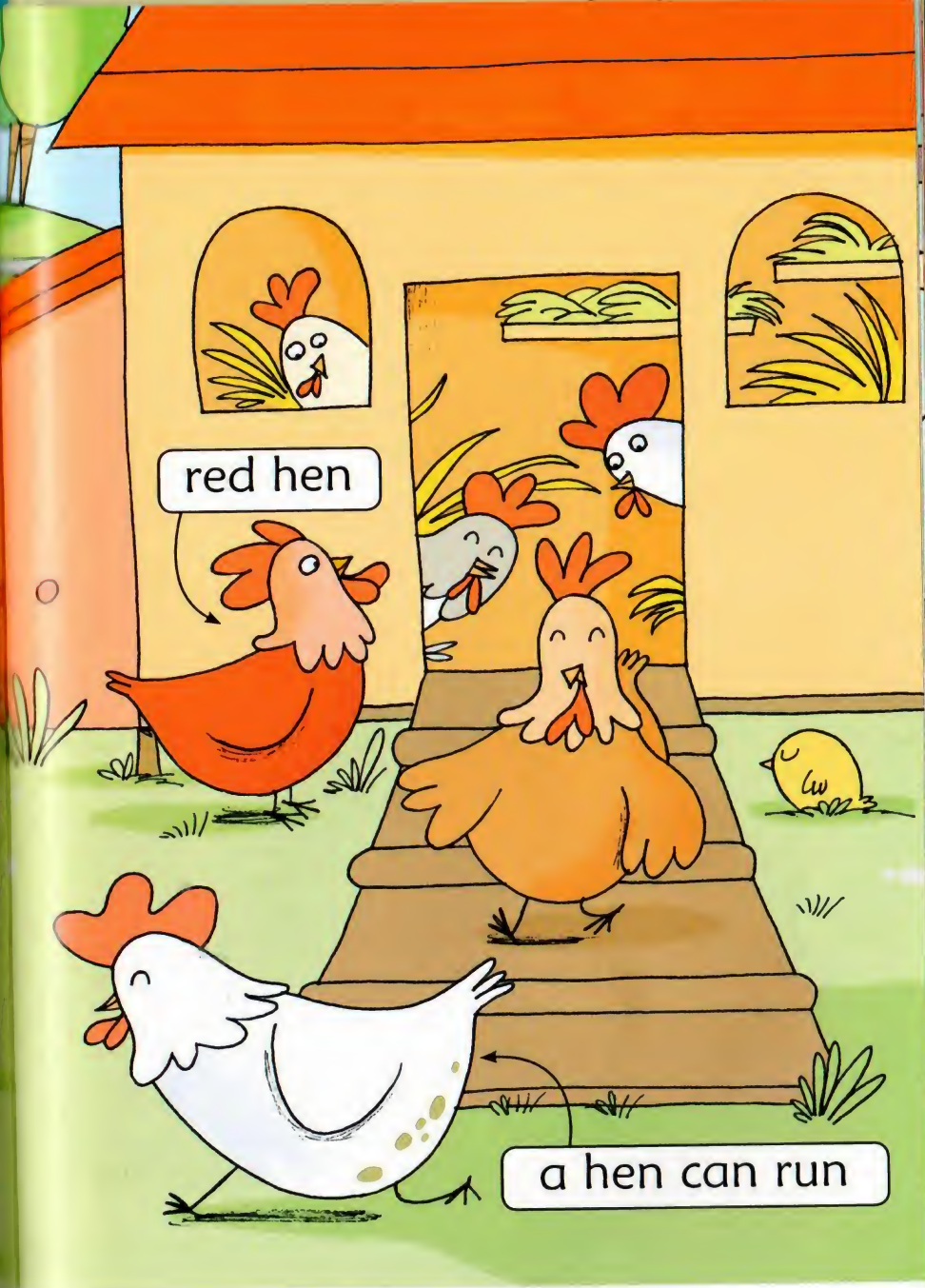


How many pigs can you see here?



Which pigs are running, standing, sitting?

hen



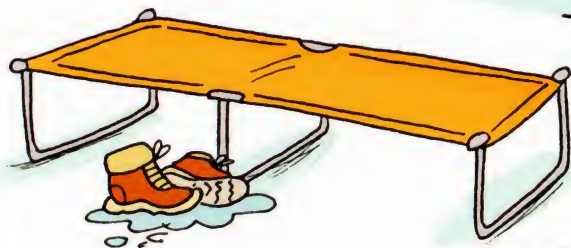
What time of day is it in the picture?

Can you spot any eggs? How many?

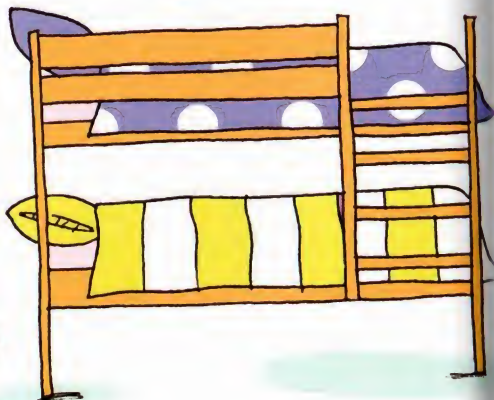
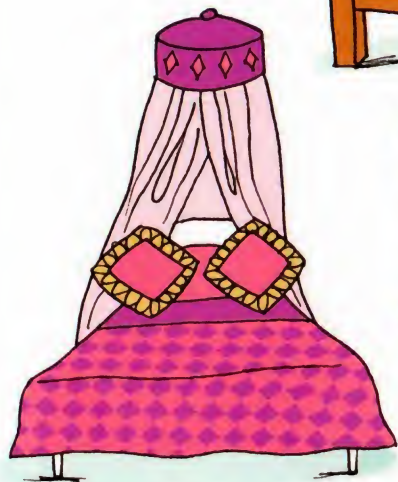
bed



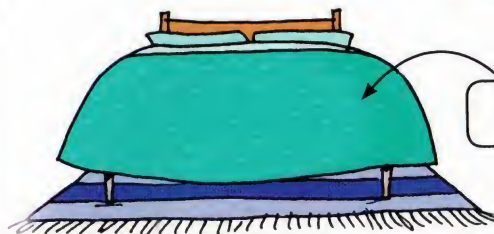
red bed



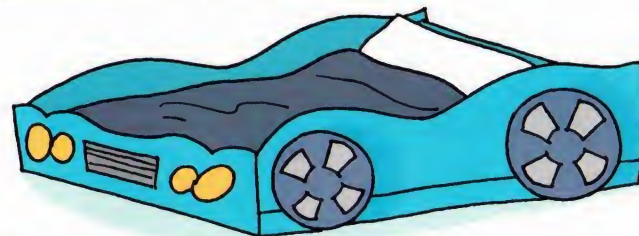
a man in bed



Who can you see sleeping in the beds?



bed on a rug

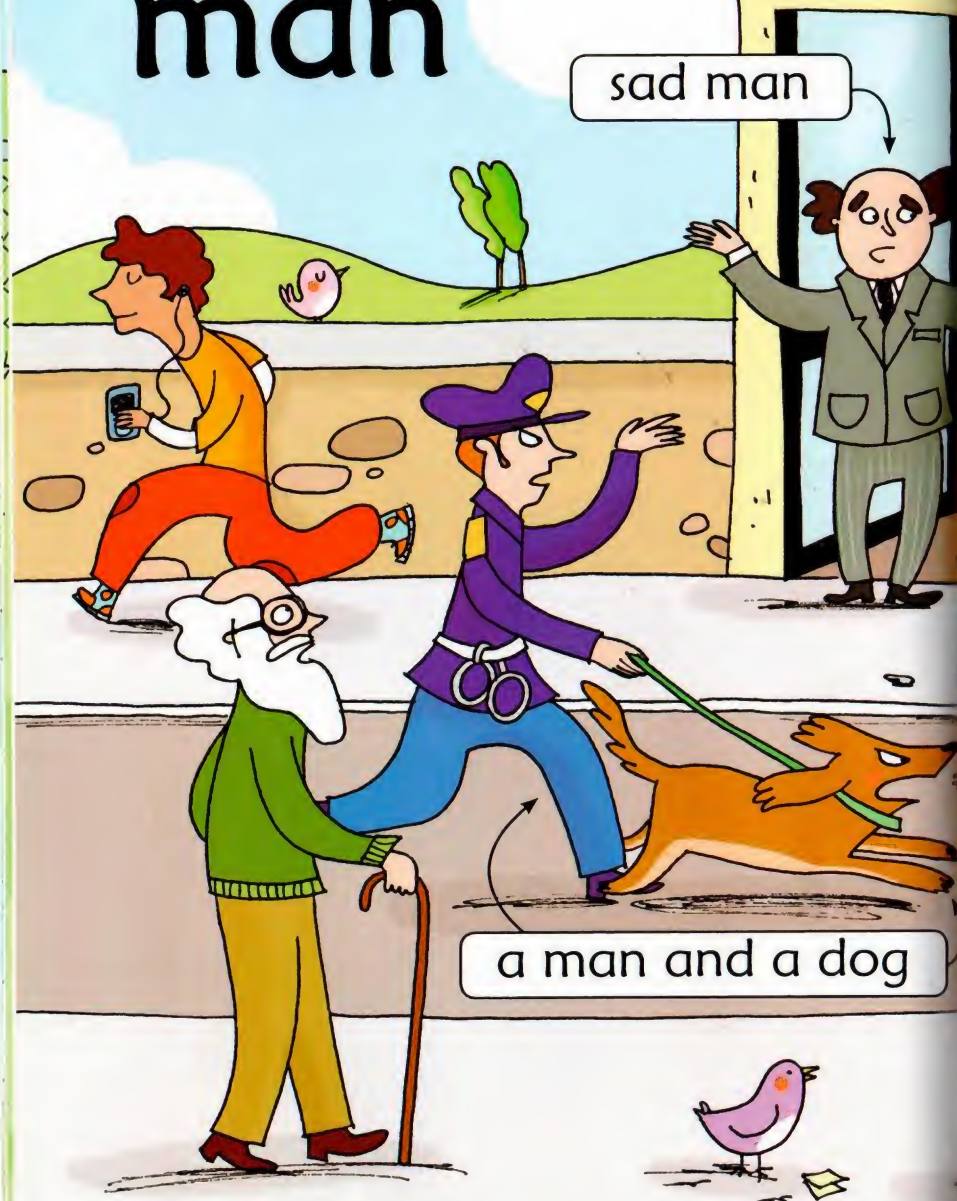


dog on a bed



Which bed would you like to have?

man



Oh no! What did the bad man do?



What sounds could you hear in this scene?

bus



red bus

dog on
a bus

man on a bus

big bus

Why do you think the man is running?

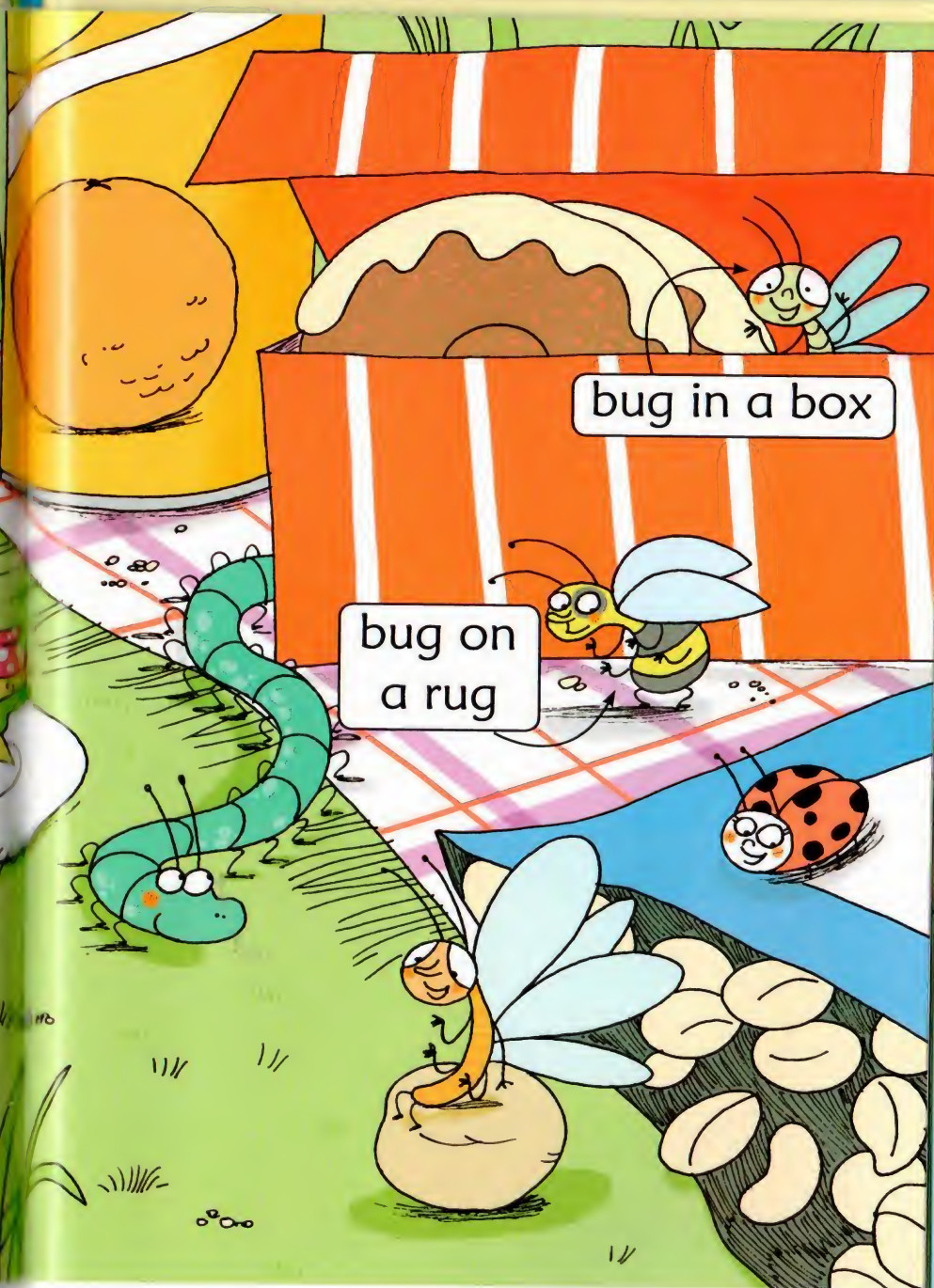
Can you see any children on the big bus?

bug



bug on
a bun

bug in a mug



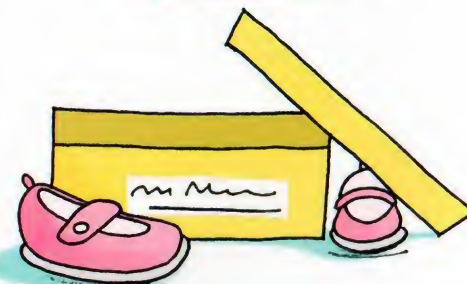
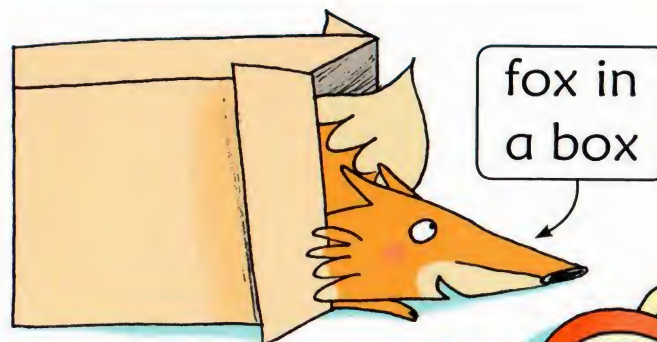
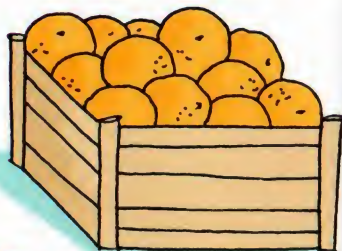
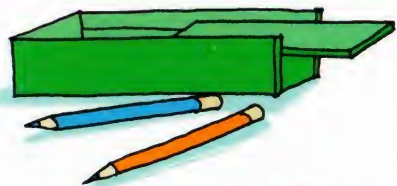
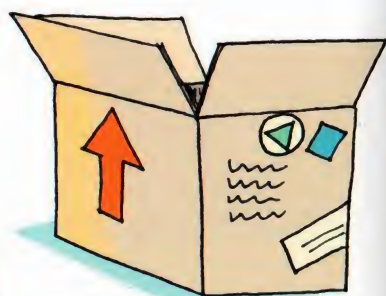
bug in a box

bug on
a rug

What have all these bugs found to eat?

What would you like to eat at a picnic?

box



Can you say what you'd put in each box?

Do you have any boxes like these at home?

van



How many people are in the picture?

Why are they putting a bed in the van?

fox

bad fox

fox in
a hut

fox in a den

fox cub

Can you see any sleepy foxes?

What is the bad fox doing?

Guidance notes

About phonics

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read by breaking words down into combinations of sounds or **phonemes**. There are 44 phonemes in the English language. Some are represented by single letters, like the **c - a - t** sounds in the word **cat**. Others are represented by more than one letter, like the **sh - ar** sounds in the word **shark**.

Getting started

This book uses only the more basic phonemes, sounds made by a single letter, in short and easy-to-read words. It is a great way to encourage your child to take an interest in letters and words, and to build their confidence in the very early stages of reading.

Pronouncing phonemes

It's important to use the *sounds* of the letters, rather than the letter-names ("sss" not "ess"). You can find out how to say all the phonemes by listening to them on the Very First Reading website, www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading* – go to the **Resources** area and scroll down to **Pronouncing the phonemes**.

*US readers go to www.veryfirstreading.com

Sounding and blending

Show your child how to run the sounds together, or **blend** them, in order to read words. Read the phonemes separately at first, **c - a - t**, then read them more quickly, **c-a-t**, until you have run the sounds together to make **cat**. Encourage your child to try this too.

More words, more practice

Each double page has one simple word to read in large letters. Start by helping your child to read these words, and have fun spotting all the different bags or cats or foxes on the page and talking about them. When your child is more confident, try reading the smaller labels which introduce new words and short phrases.

Make reading fun

Reading is an important skill, but learning to read can be stressful for children *and* parents too. Help your child by making reading an enjoyable, shared activity. Look for fun details to talk about in the pictures. Read for just as long as your child wants to – short sessions can be very effective – and give plenty of praise and encouragement.